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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 10136 241156Z

44
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
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R 241125Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9849

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 10136

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FRANGIEH TO PRESIDENT FORD

REF: BEIRUT 9519

1. FOREIGN OFFICE GAVE US THIS MORNING LETTER DATED AUGUST 22 IN ARABIC ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT FORD BY FRANGIEH. FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMAL TRANSLATION READS:

2. QUOTE EHDEN, AUGUST 22ND 1974. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR THE MESSAGE WHICH YOU HAVE CONVEYED TO ME ON THE NINTH OF AUGUST 1974 UPON YOUR TAKING UP THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

3. WHILE REITERATING MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO YOUR EXCELLENCY I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GREAT SATISFACTION REGARDING YOUR STRONG COMMITMENT TO PURSUE THE POLICY LOOKING TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THE SAME VIGOR WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THE UNITED STATES EFFORTS OVER THE PAST NINE MONTHS AND YOUR ASSURANCES THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL REMAIN ONE OF THE HIGHEST FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT YOUR ENDEAVOURS TO THAT END WILL GO FORWARD WITH THE FULL PARTICIPATION AND SUPPORT OF YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE DR. HENRY KISSINGER.

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4. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT,

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OUR DEEP APPRECIATION FOR YOUR REAFFIRMATION TO ME OF THE LONG STANDING COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE SOVEREIGNTH AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON. THIS POLICY WILL NO DOUBT ENHANCE THE CLOSE TIES AND THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS CHARACTERIZED BY THE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES AND NATIONS.

5. I VALUE THOSE RELATIONSHIPS AND ASSURE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT I WILL SPARE NO EFFORTS TO STRENGHTEN THEM. SINCERELY, SULEIMAN FRANJIEH. END QUOTE.

6. ORIGINAL COPY FOLLOWS BY AIR MAIL.
GODLEY

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